

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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O 290750Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2888

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CU/NEA FOR METELITS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TC

SUBJ: IV GRANT FOR FUJAIRAH RULER SHAIKH HAMAD AL-SHARQI

REF: (A) STATE 75729 (B) ABU DHABI 880

SUMMARY: FUJAIRAH RULER SHAIKH HAMAD BIN MUHAMMAD AL-SHARQI IN MEETING APRIL 28 WITH AMBASSADOR HAS REITERATED DESIRE ACCEPT IV INVITATION, BUT HAS RAISED PROBLEMS RE BOTH TIMING AND TRAVELING COMPANIONS. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT. REVIEW ISSUES AS PRESENTED BELOW AND ADVISE, IF POSSIBLE, BY OPENING OF BUSINESS HERE APRIL 30.

1. AS PER PARA 4 REF B, AMBASSADOR MET APRIL 28 IN DUBAI WITH FUJAIRAH RULER SHAIKH HAMAD BIN MUHAMMAD AL-SHARQI TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF PROPOSED IV GRANT. AMBASSADOR, IN PHONE CALL, REPORTS THAT, WHILE SHAIKH HAMAD HAS NOT FIRMED UP THOUGHTS ON POSSIBLE PROGRAM, HE WAS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS OF VISIT AND GRATEFUL TO EMBASSY AND USG FOR INVITATION. DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR REVEALED TWO PROBLEM AREAS, HOWEVER.

2. TIMING: SHAIKH HAMAD NOTED THAT HE AND FELLOW RULERS ON SUPREME COUNCIL ARE NOW IN SERIES OF MEETINGS RELATING TO FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR UAE FEDERATION. AS RESULT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO LEAVE AS EARLY AS END MAY. HE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE OF JUNE 10 AND
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INDICATED, WHILE THIS DATE DEFINITELY PREFERRED, HE

MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE ABLE COME AS EARLY AS JUNE 5.
EMBASSY REALIZES THAT REF A STATED THERE WAS NO
FLEXIBILITY RE TIMING, BUT WE NEVERTHELESS HOPE THAT
PARTICULARLY WITH CANCELLATION OF TAHNOUN AND QUESTION
RE KEMAL HAMZA (WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED LETTER INDICATING
HE FAVORS JULY VISIT -- WE WILL HAVE TO PURSUE THIS
FURTHER ON HIS RETURN MAY 2 FROM JAPAN) PROPOSED
CHANGE CAN BE ACCOMMODATED. SHAIKH HAMAD'S REASON FOR
REQUESTING NEW DATES ARE LEGITIMATE -- SUCH CONCIL
MEETINGS ARE TAKING PLACE -- AND HE CLEARLY DOING HIS
BEST TO STAY AS CLOSE TO OUR PROPOSED DATE AS POSSIBLE.
OBVIOUSLY, IF CHANGE CAN BE MADE, ACIFPTANCEMZF HIS
FIRST CHOICE PREFERABLE AND YGVES BEST ASSURANCE OF
AVOIDING FUTURE PROZXS.

3. COMPANIONS: SECOND ISSUE RELATES TO SHAIKH HAMAD'S
DESIRE TO BRING SOME COMPANIONS WITH HIM. HE INTIALLY
SUGGESTED 6 OR 7 BUT AMBASSADOR WAS ABLE TO GET HIM
TO LOWER SIGHTS TO LEVEL OF 2 OR 3. RULER SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONED THAT HE WISHES BRING HIS ADVISOR ON DEVELOPMENT,
AN EMINENTLY SENSIBLE CHOICE SINCE FOCUS OF VISIT AS
INDICATED ABU DHABI 517 WOULD BE ON MAKING CONTACTS
CONNECTED WITH RULER'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS. OTHER ONE
OR TWO ADDITIONAL COMPANIONS ARE FRANKLY REFLECTION
OF FACT WE ARE INVITING A "RULER." WHEN AMBASSADOR
FIRST DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF IV TRIP TO U.S. WITH
SHAIKH HAMAD, AMBASSADOR MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THIS
WOULD NOT BE STATE VISIT AND WOULD INVOLVE MINIMUM
CEREMONY. HE SAID, QUITE TO CONTRARY, IDEA WAS TO
GIVE HAMAD UNFETTERED VIEW OF U.S. AND CHANCE FOR
PRACTICAL, RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO HIS
PLANS FOR FUJAIRAH. THIS WAS AND STILL IS FULLY
UNDERSTOOD BY HAMAD, BUT AS A RULER HE SIMPLE DOES
NOT THINK IN TERMS OF TRAVELING WITHOUT AT LEAST
ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO DO HIS BIDDING, TO HANDLE HIS
NEEDS. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THAT ESCORT OFFICER,
IN ADDITION TO HIS PRIME FUNCTION, WOULD MEET PART
OF THIS NEED, BUT IT IS NOT THE SAME AS HAVING
ONES OWN COURTIER. IN SHORT, HAMAD WILL NEED BOTH
AN ESCORT OFFICER AND COMPANIONS.

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4. WE FULLY REALIZE PROBLEMS WHICH SECOND ISSUE
RAISES, BUT AGAIN WE URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE
TO ACCOMMODATE RULER'S WISHES. WE CONTINUE TO
BELIEVE THAT GETTING HIM TO U.S. IS UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY. HE IS YOUNG, ENERGETIC, BRIGHT
INDIVIDUAL WHO IS GOING TO BE IN POSITION OF POWER
FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. OF RULERS WHO COUNT (AND

LEAVING ASIDE POSSIBLE STATE VISIT FOR ZAYID), HE
IS ONLY ONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN TO U.S. WE SHOULD NOT
LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET HIM NOW.

5. IT APPEARS TO US THAT PROBLEM DIVIDES IN TWO.
FIRST, IS IT AN IMPOSSIBLE ADDITIONAL BURDEN TO
PROGRAM FOR GROUP OF THREE OR FOUR PERSONS INSTEAD
FOR JUST ONE? IF IT IS POSSIBLE, THEN QUESTION OF
COST ARISES. WE SEE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES IN THIS
REGARD. COULD THE MONEY FOR TAHNOUN'S GRANT (AND
POSSIBLY HAMZA'S, IF IN FACT HE CANNOT ACCEPT BEFORE
JULY) BE USED? COULD WE CONVERT SHAIKH HAMAD'S
GRANT INTO A PARTIAL GRANT -- I.E. LET HIM PAY HIS
OWN WAY TO U.S. -- AND THEN USE MONEY SAVED TO PICK
UP HOTEL ROOMS AND OTHER U.S. COSTS BOTH FOR HIM AND
HIS COMPANIONS? FINALLY, IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE
MIGHT ASK CENTRAL GOVT HERE IF THEY COULD
BEAR THIS ADDED EXPENSE. LAST POSSIBILITY IS
OBVIOUSLY TRICKY AND COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS IN TERMS
POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT OF SHAIKH HAMAD.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT REVIEW TWO
ISSUES RAISED BY SHAIKH HAMAD AND ADVISE RE
POSSIBILITIES SOONEST. EMBASSY REITERATES ITS
APPRECIATION THAT THIS IS NOT WAY ANYONE WOULD HAVE
HOPED FOR THIS GRANT TO PROCEED. BUT AS NOTED, WE
DO THINK IT IS IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY AND WE FRANKLY
HAVE LITTLE FLEXIBILITY IN SEEKING ALTER
REQUIREMENTS AS SHAIKH HAMAD HAS PRESENTED THEM.
RE TIMING OF DEPT.'S RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR RETURNS
FROM DUBAI WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 30. IF IT
WERE POSSIBLE TO HAVE REPLY BY OPENING OF BUSINESS
WED APRIL 30 THIS WOULD BE IDEAL ENABLING
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AMBASSADOR -- WHATEVER THE ANSWER -- TO CONTACT
RULER AGAIN PERSONALLY BEFORE RETURNING TO ABU DHABI.
IF MORE TIME REQUIRED, WE WILL, OF COURSE, ADJUST
ACCORDINGLY.
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